

said B chain having the amino acid sequence:

Pro-Thr-Pro-Glu-Met-Arg-Glu-Lys-Leu-Cys-Gly-His-His-Phe-Val-Arg-Ala-Leu-Val-Arg-Val-Cys-Gly-Gly-Pro-Arg-Trp-Ser-Thr-Glu-Ala (SEQ ID NO:4)

or said amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:4) truncated by up to 5 amino acids from the N-terminus and/or by up to 5 amino acids from the C-terminus;

said A and B chains linked by disulfide bonds between amino acid residue number 11 of SEQ ID NO:3 amino acid number 10 of SEQ ID NO:4.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the synthetic relaxin like factor is attached to a detectable label.

16. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the synthetic relaxin like factor is chemically synthesized.

17. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the synthetic relaxin like factor is recombinantly produced.

REMARKS UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Formal Matters

Claims 14-17 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Original claims 1-13 were canceled and new claims 14-17 were added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

New claims 14-17 correspond to amended claims 21-24 with the amendments submitted by applicants during the prosecution of the parent application amendment filed on March 2, 2001. In response to that amendment applicants received an Advisory Action indicating that an amendment would not be entered as there was no convincing showing as to why the amendment was not entered earlier.

It is applicants position that the amendments to the claims are fully supported within the originally filed application and that the amended claims are sufficient to overcome the objections and rejections raised within the Office Action dated December 6, 2000 of the parent application.

In addition to the claim amendments applicants have amended the specification to include the amendments made during the prosecution of the parent application serial no. 09/041,491. These amendments have been made to correct clerical errors. No new matter has been added.

Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number CONN015CON.

Respectfully submitted,
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

Date:

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By:

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